



NRCS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tennessee Native Named New Associate Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service

NASHVILLE, August 13 --USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce I. Knight today announced several leadership changes within the agency. He named a new associate chief and three new regional assistant chiefs. One of those named has a local connection to Tennessee and the Upper Cumberland region of the state.

Knight named Dana D. York, current director of the Operations Management and Oversight Division since 2001, as associate chief. When she assumes her new position Sept. 5, 2004, York will become NRCS' first female associate chief and the agency's highest ranking female leader. In this position, she will manage the agency's overall programs and operations, including a \$2.8 billion annual budget. She will succeed Tomas A. Weber, a 32-year veteran of NRCS.

Knight said that York, "... brings tremendous talents, professionalism and a commitment to this agency's mission—to conserve, maintain and enhance the quality of the nation's natural resources."

She began her 27-year career with the former Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as a student trainee while attending Tennessee Technological University. She has held various positions with the agency in Tennessee and Ohio, including soil conservationist, district conservationist and deputy state conservationist. She joined the NRCS National Headquarters staff in 1999 as a special assistant to the Chief.

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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Since 2001, York served as director of the NRCS Operations Management and Oversight Division with responsibility for the agency's operations management, including monitoring operations, business planning and accountability, and development and monitoring of Integrated Accountability and Executive Information systems. She also directed the agency's efforts on quality assurance, oversight and evaluation.

York is a native of Tennessee. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science from Tennessee Technological University and a Master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University through the USDA Graduate Studies Program. In 2003 she was named as an Outstanding Alumni by the TTU Agriculture Foundation.